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SEMI-WEEKLY.

ISSUED TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS.

W. N. ARMSTRONG, EDITOR.

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SHOT AND SHELL POURED INTO CUBAN FORTS

Spanish Batteries Silenced at Matanzas. Morro Opens Fire on American Fleet.

Thirteen Prize Vessels Captured By United
States Thus Far—Bombardment of
Manila Planned.

KEY WEST, April 27.—Admiral Sampson's fleet this afternoon turned its guns on the Spanish batteries and forts in the Matanzas harbor and all but destroyed them. The ships engaged by the Admiral were the cruiser Cincinnati, flagship New York and the monitor Puritan. The American ships escaped injury. Many Spaniards, it is said, were killed. There were no casualties on the American fleet.

The American vessels were reconnoitering for the purpose of locating the batteries, when they were fired on. The New York was first respond. The Puritan next replied, and engaged the fort on Point Mayo, the New York being engaged in pouring shells into Rubal Cayo. The Cincinnati, having been signaled, was soon at work on the west side of the bay. The shells of the batteries flew wide of their mark. The batteries were silenced in less than twenty minutes.

The object of the attack was to prevent the completion of the earthworks at Punta Gorda. A battery on the eastward arm of the bay opened fire on the flagship and this was also shelled. About twelve eight-inch shells were fired from the eastern forts, but all fell short. About five or six light shells were fired from the half-completed battery. Two of these whizzed over the New York and one fell short.

The ships left the bay for the open sea, the object of discovering the whereabouts of the batteries having been accomplished. In the neighborhood of 300 shots were put on land from the three ships at a range of from 4000 to 7000 yards. The half-completed Spanish earthworks and battery were apparently blown up by the shells. All the ships engaged showed excellent marksmanship, and when they were firing at the shortest range nearly every shell took effect.

(Special Dispatch to the "Chronicle.")

BAYONNE (France), April 27.—According to a letter just received here from Madrid, dated Tuesday, a Spanish squadron, consisting of four cruisers and three torpedo-boat destroyers, sailed for the United States yesterday. It was rumored that the squadron was to steam directly across the Atlantic and bombard the northern ports of the United States. The port from which this squadron sailed was not mentioned. It was said, however, that a second squadron, consisting of four ironclads and two cruisers, was being formed at Cadiz. Its destination was unknown.

LONDON, April 27.—It is reported here from Madrid that the destination of the Spanish fleet, which is said to have been at sea for some days, is unknown to any one but the Minister of Marine, Admiral Bermejo. But it is added that news is expected before long at the Spanish capital of the bombardment of American coast towns.

NEW YORK, April 29.—A Washington special to the Herald says: Spain's fleet has sailed from Cape Verde Islands in two divisions, one of which sailed north toward the Canary Islands and the other went toward Porto Rico.

An unsigned dispatch reached the State Department this afternoon announcing that the first division, apparently bound for the Canaries, had returned to St. Vincent on account of a collision. It is believed by the administration and naval officials that this dispatch was instigated by the Spanish authorities, and it is therefore regarded with considerable doubt.

Four armored cruisers—the Almirante Oquendo, the Vizcaya, the Infanta Maria Teresa and the Cristobal Colon, and three torpedo-boat destroyers, the Terror, Furor and Osado—formed the division which sailed westward.

The division which started north consisted of three torpedo-boats—Ariete, Azor and Rayo, the auxiliary cruiser Ciudad de Cadiz and the English collier, from which the fleet coaled before it sailed. It was this division which was reported to have suffered an accident and returned to port.

The announcement of the departure of the Spanish men-of-war reached the State Department this morning, and it was confirmed by private information received here. It was this announcement which caused the officials to look upon the message subsequently received as of Spanish origin.

Notwithstanding the report made by the American Consul in the morning that the fleet had sailed, the dispatch this afternoon reiterated this news, and furthermore announced the return of the division composed of the torpedo-boats on account of a collision. Had the message simply stated that the torpedo-boats had returned on account of a collision, even had it been unsigned, the department might have put some faith

in it, but the reiteration of the news of the sailing of the fleet caused officials to regard the information with suspicion. The dispatch was probably addressed to the department, but the absence of the Consul's name and the further fact that it was not in cipher were regarded as significant indication of the source of the message.

As the Spanish force has not been reinforced by the battleship Pelayo, the protected cruiser Alfonso XIII and second torpedo-boat flotilla at Cadiz, the authorities do not believe that it will come west, despite the fact that the armor-clads and destroyers sailed in the direction of Porto Rico. It is generally believed in naval circles that the ships will proceed to the Canary Islands, where they will await the arrival of reinforcements from Spain and will then come west.

In order that the authorities may be advised without delay if the vessels are bound to Porto Rico, the St. Louis or Harvard will be sent to the eastward of Porto Rico to ascertain the fleet's position, if bound for that point, and when this information is secured will hasten with all speed to where the armored fleet of the American Government will be in waiting.

Considerable relief is experienced in naval circles over the departure of the Spain's fleet from St. Vincent, for the reason that the safety of the battleship Oregon is now believed to be assured. The accuracy of the Herald's cable advices is shown by the fact that while the Navy Department learned yesterday that the torpedo gun vessel Temerario, belonging to the Spanish navy, had gone to sea, the Herald announced this morning that it had only gone to La Plata. The arrival of the Temerario at La Plata was confirmed by official advices received here to-day.

Secretary Long is now confident that the Oregon and the gunboat Marietta are safe, and expressed the belief that the Oregon, even if attacked, could take care of at least two armored cruisers before being disposed of herself. As to the Temerario, it is believed she is not bent on the destruction of the Oregon, as that vessel has undoubtedly passed Montevideo. There are several American steamers sailing in South American waters, and it is considered that she hopes to go on a prize hunt.

Considerable surprise is expressed in State Department circles that Argentina has not ordered the Temerario out of her waters, in view of the fact that she issued her proclamation of neutrality on April 21, as soon as she had been advised that a state of war existed between the United States and Spain.

Latest dispatches report the safety of the Oregon.

TAMPA, FLA., April 24.—The United States has cut the Havana cable. The cut was made about ten miles out of Havana, and the southern end of the cable is now on the Mangrove, which was recently converted into an auxiliary cruiser. This gives the Government the exclusive use of the cable, and entirely cuts General Blanco off from communication with Spain, as the insurgents are between him and the other cable ports.

NEW ORLEANS, April 28.—General Graham will name a military commission to try John Waltz, the Spanish spy, captured at Port Eads by a Government engineer officer. Several undeveloped films and maps descriptive of the river and the Government works at Port Eads were found on him. Major Quinn says the proof is conclusive and the spy will be shot. This will be the first official execution of the war.

ON THE FLAGSHIP NEW YORK, OFF HAVANA, April 23, 2 p. m.—The Morro castle guns opened on the fighting squadron at 11 o'clock last night. About ten shots were fired in the direction of the ships. None took effect, and none were returned.

This is the first act of war on the part of Spain.

HONGKONG, April 27.—A battle between the Spanish and American fleets is scheduled for Friday or Saturday. The defenders of the Philippines prefer to battle in open water, and will meet Dewey's squadron half-way.

The United States Asiatic squadron, which has sailed for the Philippines, consists of the flagship Olympia, one of the best cruisers afloat, Captain C. V. Gridley, Rear-Admiral George Dewey, commander-in-chief; the cruiser Baltimore, Captain N. M. Dyer; the cruiser Boston, Captain Frank Wilde; the cruiser Concord, Commander Asa A. Walker; the cruiser Raleigh, Captain F. B. Coghlan; the gunboat Petrel, commander E. P. Wood, and the dispatch-boat Hugh McCullough. Besides these fighting ships there are also in the squadron the steamer Nanshan, a store ship and the steamer Zafiro, a collier.

NEW YORK, April 29.—The Herald's Washington correspondent says: Another bombardment of Matanzas will promptly follow if General Blanco makes any attempt to replace the batteries demolished by Admiral Sampson.

Officials dispatches from Admiral Sampson received at the Navy Department to-day tell briefly of the bombardment, which the Herald so fully and graphically described yesterday morning. The only explanation he makes for the attack on Matanzas fortifications is that he discovered the Spaniards were erecting heavy guns there, and he deemed it expedient to demolish them. He adds that the Puritan will be sent back to Matanzas with orders to destroy any new batteries that may be erected.

NEW YORK, April 28.—A Washington special to the Sun says: The Spanish fleet near the Philippines outnumbers our own three to one, and, leaving transports out of the count, there are four Spanish ships for every American. We have four of our best cruisers and two gunboats near Manila, be-

(Continued on page 2.)

PLANS FOR HAWAII

Proposition to Take Islands as a
War Measure.

THE OPINION IN WASHINGTON

Senator Davis Talks of Pearl Har-
bor—Mr. Hatch Calls on
Government.

NEW YORK, April 28.—A Sun special from Washington says: A way has been opened for the United States to take possession of the Hawaiian Islands without waiting for a vote of the Senate upon the pending treaty of annexation or the passage by Congress of Senator Morgan's joint resolution, providing for annexation.

Several weeks ago a bill was prepared by several members of the Foreign Affairs Committee, with the approval of the President and Secretary of State, by the terms of which the Hawaiian Government was authorized to recognize the authority of the United States. The bill was sent to Honolulu to be presented to the Hawaiian Legislature, and news that it has been adopted by that body is looked for at an early day, possibly on the arrival of the next steamer from the Islands.

The necessity of securing Pearl harbor as a coaling station is generally admitted, and there is fear that under the neutrality laws the United States will be entitled to no more privileges in Hawaiian harbors than any other harbors. It is possible the recent report that Admiral Miller had been instructed to hoist the flag of the United States on the Government House at Honolulu grew out of the knowledge that the legislation referred to was projected. It is likely the Admiral's instructions contemplate the establishment of a coaling station as soon as the Hawaiian Legislature acts on the bill providing for the recognition of the United States.

The Washington Star says: Members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations are generally without information as to the plans of the Administration in Hawaii, but some of them endorse the idea of securing the Pacific Islands by seizure at this time in view of their strategic importance. Senator Davis, chairman of the committee, is among those who hold this view. He said yesterday that he considered the United States would be entirely justified in taking the Islands in case of war as a war measure.

"They would," he said, "be necessary for our own defense, and we would be justified in their seizure at such a time to prevent their falling into the hands of our enemies, to whom they would be invaluable. What is to prevent Spain's sending a cruiser to Honolulu and seizing the country, together with our property interests there, including our coal, of which, I understand, we have quite a supply on the Islands. Furthermore, there are in Hawaii many American citizens whose interests it is necessary we should protect. For these and other reasons I should endorse the taking possession of the Islands by the United States in time of war with another country into whose hands they might fall. We, of course, know that the Hawaiian Government is friendly to annexation, so that acquisition by this means would not be so violent a proceeding as it might seem under other circumstances."

ANXIOUS ABOUT HAWAII.

Mr. Hatch Calls on Government,
Policy May Be Changed.

WASHINGTON, April 28.—John B. Moore qualified today as Assistant Secretary of State and, in the absence of Secretary Day, received the representatives of the foreign governments having diplomatic business with the United States. Among them were the Portuguese Minister and Mr. Hatch, Minister from Hawaii. The latter, it is understood, called to ascertain, so far as possible, the policy of the United States with regard to Hawaii in connection with the war with Spain. Although it is impossible to obtain any official information on that particular point, it is understood the Hawaiian Minister was informed that the Administration was likely to change its policy toward the Hawaiian Islands pending action by the Senate on the treaty providing for the annexation of the Islands.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations held a meeting today for further consideration on the question of annexation.